

SBC – April 28, 2024

Romans 8:35-39 (NKJV)

*“Nothing Can Separate Us From God’s Love”*

# 37

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Romans**

**Theme:** The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

**Outline:**

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17

- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39

God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20

Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21

**Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39**

- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)

- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)

- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Romans presents the most systematic presentation of the gospel found in the Bible. Paul starts out in 1b -3a by showing all are under the condemnation of sin including the pagan, the moralist, and the religionist.

Then he belabors the point that justification is by faith alone in Romans 3b-4. Then in Romans 5-6 Paul emphasizes that people of faith are now identified with Christ. We have intimate solidarity with Him so much so that what applies to Him applies to us in terms of our relationship to sin. We are now dead to sin and alive to God.

However, we still have a problem with indwelling sin as seen in Romans 7. Romans 7 presents one of the most frustrating chapters in the Bible. The true believer HATES it when he sins but finds that within himself he does not have the power to over come it.

But this gives way to Romans 8 which emphasizes that we are not left alone to battle the problem of sin. We now have the Holy Spirit and that reality makes all the difference. Romans 8 mentions the Holy Spirit more than any other chapter in the Bible. And tied with the ministry of the Spirit is great SECURITY and ASSURANCE. This is what Romans 8 is all about!

Romans 7 shows the believer in great frustration, but that is followed up by Romans 8 which emphatically emphasizes in the strongest of terms the SECURITY of the believer.

In fact, the reality of Romans 7 (our great struggle with sin) becomes a KEY BASIS for assurance as emphasized in Romans 8. You say: How so? Note the flow of Paul's thought...

### **Slide # 2**

Justification by FAITH  
The believer HATES sin.  
The believer LOVES God.

The true believer has this combination in their heart and life. They hate the sin they wrestle with and they love God. And they go together. To really love God is shown in the fact that you hate the very sin you wrestle with.

### **Slide # 3**

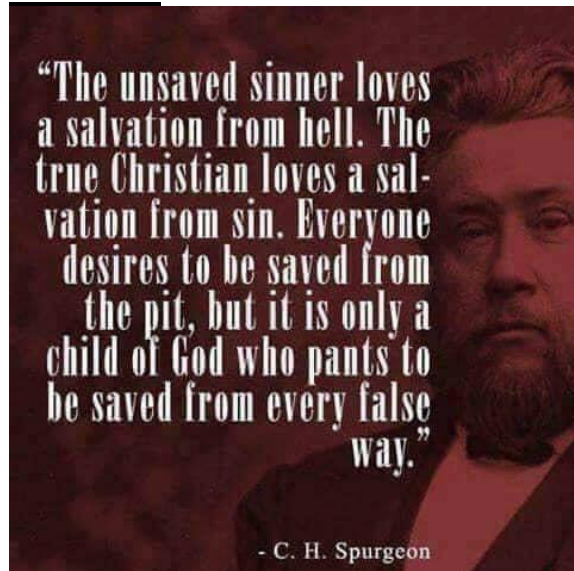
#### **Romans 7:15 (NKJV)**

**15** For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

#### **Romans 8:28 (NKJV)**

**28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

### **Slide # 4**



Immediately after emphasizing the great struggle with sin experienced by the believer in Romans 7 Paul turns the page and says in the very first verse of Romans 8, "***There is therefore now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus***". And then building on that he provides layer after layer of assurance to those in Christ throughout the chapter. It builds to a climax in Romans 8:31-39.

In Romans 8:31-39 there are two great emphases: 1) The impossibility of any charge being sustained against the believer as seen in verses 31-34; and 2) the impossibility of anything separating the believer from the love of God as seen in verses 35-39. Today we finish out our study of Romans 8 by looking at verses 35-39.

Paul is not writing these wonderful truths so that we can feel more secure as we pursue the American dream. Rather, he was writing to those who were suffering hardship, persecution, and even martyrdom because of their commitment to Christ and the gospel. Paul is equipping us with the knowledge that we need not only to *persevere* through trials for Christ's sake, but to *overwhelmingly conquer* in all these difficulties. – **Steven Cole**

### **Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)**

**35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

Paul very methodically emphasizes the absolute SECURITY that the believer has in Christ. He has shown that no one can oppose the believer (v. 31); no one can bring a successful charge against God's elect (v. 33); no one can condemn us (v. 34); and now he shows that no one can separate us from the love of Christ (v. 35).

In mentioning the "love of Christ" the emphasis here is not on our love for Christ but rather His love for us as His people. We often fail in our love for Christ, but He never fails in His love for us (Jn. 13:1; 1 Jn. 4:9-10, 19).

Paul will now go on to mention a total of 17 things which may seem to be a threat to our relationship with the Lord, but then shows that none of them can sever our love relationship with the Lord. Here in verse 35 he mentions 7 of those things.

### **Slide # 5**

- 1) Tribulation
- 2) Distress
- 3) Persecution
- 4) Famine
- 5) Nakedness
- 6) Peril
- 7) Sword

- Tribulation is the idea of affliction, adversity, or trouble brought about by outward circumstances and difficulties.
- Distress refers to pressures – the pressure of being hemmed in. It is the idea of crushing difficulties that threaten to undo us.

### **Slide # 6**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:8 (NKJV)**

**8** We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not **crushed**; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

- Persecution is suffering mistreatment at the hands of God’s enemies. It is the idea of being hunted down with the oppressor desiring to hurt or harm God’s people.
- Famine refers to a lack of food or basic necessities.
- Nakedness refers to inadequate clothing. It means to suffer exposure and privation. Extreme poverty is in view.

### **Slide # 7**

#### **1 Corinthians 4:11 (NKJV)**

**11** To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are **poorly clothed**, and beaten, and homeless.

- Peril refers to being in danger or in jeopardy.

Paul in 2 Cor. 11:26 used a form of this word “peril” eight times in this one verse.

### **Slide # 8**

#### **2 Corinthians 11:26 (NKJV)**

**26** in journeys often, in **perils** of waters, in **perils** of robbers, in **perils** of my own countrymen, in **perils** of the Gentiles, in **perils** in the city, in **perils** in the wilderness, in **perils** in the sea, in **perils** among false brethren;

There are dangerous perils everywhere! For the Christian it’s a perilous world out there.

- Sword denotes the danger of death or the experience of it (Act 12:2).

Paul had faced all these miserable hardships, with perhaps the exception of the “sword,” but in the end, he would die by the sword of Rome as well.

But Paul's testimony in the form of a rhetorical question is that none of these things can separate the believer from the love of Christ.

Now this is important to know because when a believer is going through an extremely hard time they are tempted to think, "*Why is this happening to me? Perhaps I am out of favor with God. Perhaps I don't even know Him.*" And in short order, these Roman Christians were about to experience persecution and hardship on an extreme level under Nero.

As Christianity began to grow in the Roman Empire, Rome took a strong stand against it. For the first 300 years of the Church in the Roman Empire, they endured tremendous persecution. From Nero to Diocletian there were 10 waves of severe persecution that involved almost every form of hideous torture one can imagine.

They were covered with pitch, ignited, and placed on poles to light Nero's garden. They were sewn in sacks with vipers. They were fed to lions and given over to bulls. They were boiled in oil. They were place on red-hot iron beds. They were crucified upside down.

– **James Kennedy**

In short order these Roman Christians would come to find very precious these verses on assurance from the apostle Paul.

The most common thing in the world for people when they are going through horrendous things like this is to question WHY! But Paul is emphasizing that this is not abnormal. These things are part of the "all things" that God uses together for our ultimate good – to conform us into the image of His Son (Rom. 8:28-29).

### **Slide # 9**

#### **Romans 5:3–4 (NKJV)**

**3** And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation **produces** perseverance;

**4** and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Simply because these types of things are happening to a person does not in any way show that they are somehow separated from the love of Christ. In fact, just the opposite is true. It is to be expected by God's people!

And to prove his point Paul now quotes from Psalm 44:22.

**36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”**

Don't you love this verse? As a young believer, I would love to read through Romans 8, but when I got to verse 36, it kind of seemed out of place in contrast to all the wonderful promises around it. But that is to miss the point.

The point is God's people are not exempt from terrible things happening to them. In fact, it is ordained of God. God has a purpose for our suffering. It causes us to draw near to Him. It hones and shapes us. It causes us to depend more fully on Him. It's all working together for our ultimate good and God's ultimate glory. But of course, being human we don't like hard times.

However, if we understand that God has a purpose, even through we might not yet understand it – that helps us to cope. That provides GRACE in facing it.

Paul here in Romans 8:36 quotes from Psalm 44.

### **Slide # 10**

**Psalm 44:22 (NKJV)**

**22** Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Psalm 44 starts out by recounting how God in the past had worked in glorious ways on behalf of Israel (44:1-3). The Psalm continues by saying that they were steadfastly trusting in the LORD. And right there is a KEY memory verse that states their mindset (44:4-8).

### **Slide # 11**

**Psalm 44:8 (NKJV)**

**8** In God we boast all day long, And praise Your name forever. Selah

And yet as the Psalm continues it shows they are befuddled because despite their faith and their faithfulness they were suffering and being greatly afflicted by the pagans around them. In spite of their standing for God they were being killed all the day long and they can't figure out WHY.

Paul quotes this verse in that context to show that suffering for God's sake is nothing new and often we don't know the reason WHY! This has been the experience of God's people down through the ages. It has been well stated that ***“Believers who suffer are the rule, not the exception.”***

The saints are sheep for the slaughter! Name yourself among them, and cease contending for your “rights” in a world that has cast out Christ. Persecution is shaping itself up again throughout Christendom – yea, even in the United States. ...Therefore get ready. Put up over your mirror the motto: “I am Christ’s: a sheep for slaughter.”

– **William Newell**

This is our calling. We are called to take up our cross and follow Christ.

Peter wrote to the suffering saints who seemed surprised by what they were going through.

### **Slide # 12**

**1 Peter 4:12 (NKJV)**

**12** Beloved, **do not think it strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

Suffering for the cause of Christ is not strange or unusual, but rather the norm. We should expect it.

### **Slide # 13**

**1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV)**

**21** For **to this you were called**, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

**1 Peter 4:19 (NKJV)**

**19** Therefore let those who **suffer according to the will of God** commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

We as Christians in the United States have lived in a very abnormal context, in a favorable context without severe persecution for the last couple of hundred years. But now with full grown apostasy on the scene all that is changing. Don’t think it strange. This is normal! The world has NEVER been the friend of Christ or His people.

### **Slide # 14**

**John 16:33 (NKJV)**

**33** These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Troubles and harsh circumstances do not indicate that God's love is not upon us, rather we are promised the LOVE of God will never depart from us no matter what we are going through. And if you are going through something like this that is a wonderful truth to hold onto. The love of God remains ever sure – but troubles are also sure to come. Paul wants these Roman Christians to get this – they were going to need it.

Note that Paul totally destroys the prosperity gospel with this verse. It is totally wrong to think that simply because you are a Christian God will protect you from all harm and danger. It is wrong to think that you will never suffer and that you as a person faith are guaranteed, safety, health, wealth, and prosperity as long as you have a strong faith. That is a total lie from the pit!

This lie has been debunked since the days of Job. This is what Job's friends thought and they were all DEAD wrong! God often allows His faithful servants to undergo great hardship and even suffer death for His sake.

Hebrew 11 (the Hall of Faith chapter) presents a balanced view.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **Hebrews 11:34–36 (NKJV)**

**34** quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

**35** Women received their dead raised to life again. **Others** were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

**36** Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

Hebrews lists a whole bunch of people who saw great victory because of their faith, but OTHERS suffered and died horribly, yet they too were people of great faith.

And here is the thing! We don't get to choose how God wants to use us. Remember the man born blind in John 9. The disciples wanted to know whose sin was responsible for his condition – the blind man or his parents. And then Jesus shocked them by saying...



**Slide # 16****John 9:3 (NKJV)****3** Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, **but that the works of God should be revealed in him.**

Wow! Who knew! This man was born blind for a very specific purpose – that one-day Jesus would heal him and be glorified in it. He had no choice in the matter. This was God’s prerogative. God’s ways are not our ways (cf. Isa. 55:8).

Note it is written that “***For Your sake we are killed all the day long***” – that is to say for God’s sake we are constantly being killed. We are dispensable for God’s sake. God has a certain appointment for all of us and for God’s people it is common for this to involve suffering and even death for His sake.

**Now we are going** to send around a **signup sheet** and ask you to sign your name if you are willing to suffer and die for Jesus’ sake. We want you to be record (not really)!

Nobody wants to suffer, but it is to be expected that if we really take our stand for Jesus, it will happen. 2 Tim. 3:12 says, “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” Whether you realize it or not if you are a true Christian you are already signed up for it. The only question is will you be faithful to your calling.

**Slide # 17****Romans 8:17 (NKJV)****17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him**, that we may **also be glorified together.**

Often scholars treat Romans 8:36 as saying, “we face death all the day long” sort of like Paul in 1 Cor. 15:30-31 when he says, “we stand in jeopardy every hour”, and again, “I die daily” meaning his life was constantly in danger because of his stand for Christ. Now that is true, but here in Romans 8:36 Paul actually says it stronger, saying, “**We are [present tense] being killed all day long**”.

As a whole God’s people are constantly being killed for the cause of Christ. More people annually are being killed as martyrs for Christ today than ever before in the history of the world. The major news outlets almost NEVER report on this. True Christians don’t really matter to the world.

Israel my Glory reports that “Approximately 80 percent of all global persecution is directed at Christians”. World Magazine reports that “Less than 20 percent of the world’s population now lives in a Free country, the smallest proportion since 1995.”

### **Slide # 18**

“God examineth with trials,” said the Puritan Henry Smith, “the devil examineth with temptations, the world examineth with persecutions.” The furnace of persecution is evidence that the believer is creating problems for the world, and the world cannot take it. “If the world hate you,” Jesus told His disciples, “ye know that it hated me before it hated you” (John 15:18).

Yet, in the apostolic Church they counted it an honor to suffer for Christ.

### **Slide # 19**

#### **Acts 5:41 (NKJV)**

**41** So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

**George Whitefield**, who lived in the 1700s, said, “I was honored today with having a few stones, dirt, rotten eggs, and pieces of dead cats thrown at me.”

In tribulation, distress, and persecution God’s people are killed all the day long; in famine, nakedness, peril, and sword they are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Deitrich **Bonhoeffer** was right when he said, “**When Christ** calls a **man, he bids him** come and die.” I know this is a shock to many American Christians but this is our calling!

This cross calling – this death calling seems like such a bleak prognosis, but that is not the end of the story. It’s not the full story. If we stop at verse 36 we will undoubtedly be discouraged but read on...

**37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**

How can this be? Accounted as sheep for the slaughter and at the same time more than conquerors.

Note Paul says, "in ALL these things" we are more than conquerors. Realize that in Christ suffering and power go together. This is one of the best kept secrets in Christianity.

### **Slide # 20**

#### **Philippians 3:10 (NKJV)**

**10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Paul wanted to experience the resurrection power but he knew that this happens in the context of sharing in Christ's sufferings. When we suffer and walk by faith and respond with the fruit of the Spirit that puts the life of Christ on display. That is resurrection power on display!

### **Slide # 21**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:11 (NKJV)**

**11** For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

The reason God's people are constantly facing death is so that the life of Jesus may be manifest in them. This is how God works! And in this we are more than conquerors. This is what Paul meant in 2 Cor. 2:14 when he said, "thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ".

"More than conquerors" literally means "hyper-conquerors" or "super-conquerors." Victory is so overwhelming that merely being a conqueror is not strong enough to express it. It is the idea of experiencing a surpassing or overwhelming victory that is total in every way.

We are not victims of these circumstances! Rather we are MORE than conquerors as we walk through them by faith!

When Chrysostom was brought before the Roman emperor, the emperor threatened him with banishment if he remained a Christian. Chrysostom replied, "Thou cannot banish me for this world is my Father's house." "But I will slay thee," said the emperor. "Nay, thou cannot," said the noble champion of the faith, "for my life is hid with Christ in God."

"I will take away your treasures" replied the emperor.

"Nay, but thou cannot for my treasure is in heaven and my heart is there."

"But I will drive you away from man and you shall have no friend left."  
 "Nay, thou cannot for I have a friend in heaven from whom you cannot separate me. I defy thee, for there is nothing that thou can do to hurt me."

"Yea, in all these things we are more than conquerors..."

Michael Sattler was an Anabaptist -what was called a "Radical Reformer". I identify with the Radical Reformers. Sattler is often referred to as "a superlative witness". He was put to death for his faith.

The torture, a prelude to the execution, began at the marketplace, where a piece was cut from Sattler's tongue. Pieces of flesh were torn from his body twice with red-hot tongs. He was then forged to a cart. On the way to the scene of the execution the tongs were applied five times again. In the marketplace at the site of the execution, still able to speak, the unshakable Sattler prayed for his persecutors. After being bound to a ladder with ropes and pushed into the fire, he admonished the people, the judges, and the mayor to repent and be converted. Then he prayed, "Almighty, eternal God, Thou art the way and the truth...I will with thy help to this day testify to the truth and seal it with my blood." As soon as the ropes on his wrists were burned, Sattler raised the two forefingers of his hands, giving the promised signal to the brethren that a martyr's death was bearable. Then the assembled crowd heard coming from his seared lips, "Father, I commend my spirit into Thy hands." – *The Anabaptist Story by William R. Estep. p. 72*

"Yea, in all these things we are more than conquerors..."

But note the qualifier: "through Him who loved us." We can't do this on our own. Jesus said, "without Me you can do nothing." In Phil. 4:13 Paul said...

### **Slide # 22**

#### **Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)**

**13** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

This being a super-conqueror requires supernatural power – the power of God's Spirit working in and through us.

But note carefully that it says we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. “Loved us” is in the aorist tense which speaks past action – established action and specifically that which was seen in the cross.

In Roman 5:8 Paul said God demonstrated His love in that “**Christ died for us**”. Back in verse 32 Paul said God, “**did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all**”. In this, we are more than conquerors. We don’t do it – Christ did it for us and we simply share in His victory.

In His love for us He justified us by His blood and thereby saves us from wrath when we put our faith in Him (Rom. 5:8-9).

And in this position as more than conquerors death is ultimately swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54). As more than conquerors we are headed for the eternal kingdom. As more than conquerors we are “shall inherit all things” (Rev. 21:7). As more than conquerors we are headed for the glory land where there are pleasures forevermore (Ps. 16:11).

As more than conquerors we are going to live in the presence of the Lord where there is fullness of joy (Ps. 16:11). As more than conquerors we are headed for the glory land where there will be no more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, and no more pain! As more than conquerors our destination is glorification where we are going to share in the very glory of Christ forever and ever. And all this “through Him who loved us.”

Note the emphasis on “all things” in this surrounding context.

### **Slide # 23**

- “**all things** work together for good” v. 28
- “freely give us **all things**” – v. 32
- “in **all these things** we are more than conquerors” – v. 37

God works through ALL THINGS and in the sovereign purpose of God its all working together for our eternal good – and all because of Jesus and what He has done for us as our Savior!

We now come to Paul’s climactic conclusion on the SECURITY of the believer as seen in Romans 8:38-39.

**38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,**

“Persuaded” is in the perfect tense indicating completed action with continuing results. There was no wavering with Paul on this point! He was totally convinced!

“Persuaded” is a heart word. [There is a] difference between knowing a truth and being heart-persuaded of it” – ***William Newell***

Paul was heart-persuaded of this to where he had a rational, settled, and unalterable conviction about it. He is perfect tense persuaded that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Absolutely NOTHING can change God’s ordained purpose for those who know Him.

Paul now lists 10 things that cannot separate us as believers from the love of God. He lists them in four contrasting pairs and then two things that stand alone.

He begins with “**death**”. Death is known as the king of terrors.

#### **Slide # 24**

**Hebrews 2:15 (NKJV)**

**15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

People are scared to death of death! Death is final as far as this life is concerned and it is certain. Death is the last enemy, but Christ has conquered death (1 Cor. 15:26). He has removed the sting of death (1 Cor. 15:55). For the believer death is the gateway to glory (cf. 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23). In the face of death we now have a LIVING HOPE (1 Thess. 4:13; 1 Pet. 1:3). Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we fear no evil (Ps. 23) – for even there He is with us and has promised to never leave us (Heb. 13:5).

Death is the king of terrors -but Jesus is KING of kings including being king over death. Even death cannot separate us from the love of God.

Nor can **life** separate us from God’s love. Life with all its distractions, disappointments, difficulties, allurements, etc.... – no matter what it throws at us cannot separate us from the love of God.

**Angels** cannot separate us from the love God for indeed they are “ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation” (Heb. 1:14). Far from getting in the way as a barrier to God they “*crowd the unseen world to aid us in our journey home*” (John Phillips).

“**Principalities**” is the idea of rulers but is often used of demonic forces as seen for example in Ephesians 6:12 or Colossians 2:15. As contrasted with good angels here in Romans 8:38 it probably has demonic forces in view. Christ has “disarmed” these evil principalities (Col. 2:15) and they are now helpless in trying to sever us from the love of God.

In contrasting angels and principalities Paul is saying that no spiritual powers (good or bad) could ever possibly separate us from God’s love. He is speaking hypothetically as good angels would never want to separate us from God’s love and evil angels (demons) could never do it.

The word “**powers**” in the older manuscripts is placed at the end of verse 38 and stands by itself but here in the NKJV it is listed after principalities.

The plural form to this common word for “power” is used to refer to either miracles or to persons in positions of authority.

– **John MacArthur**

“Powers” (Gk. *dunamis*) is a word often associated with miracles or supernatural power. In the context of Romans 8 “powers” probably refers to “spiritual powers” in the sense of spiritual beings who exhibit some form of spiritual power, although some suggest it may have human governing authorities in view who are often controlled by Satanic forces.

Depending on the context this word “powers” is sometimes used in reference to the workings of Satanic power. It is used for example in reference to Simon the Magician in Acts 8:10. In 2 Thess. 2:9 it shows the Antichrist will come “*according to the working of Satan, with all **power** [same word], signs, and lying wonders*”.

Satan’s miracle working power from the dark side is real on some level, but it can never separate us from the love of God. No matter what the higher power over us may be, no matter how Satanically energized, God always remains the ALMIGHTY power, and nothing can separate us from His love.

### **Slide # 25**

**1 John 4:4 (NKJV)**

**4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

**“nor things present nor things to come”**: No matter what we are presently facing it cannot separate us from the love of God. No matter what our fears are about the future it cannot separate us from the love of God. Nothing in this present age or in the age to come can ever sever this love relationship. Those who belong to Christ are forever joined to Him!

**39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**“nor height nor depth”**: No matter how far into the outer universe you go and cannot escape the love of God. No matter how low you go into the deepest recesses of Hades – even there the love of God will be with you.

### **Slide # 26**

**Psalm 139:7–8 (LSB)**

**7** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

**8** If I ascend to **heaven** [height], You are there; If I make my bed in **Sheol**, [depth] behold, You are there.

**“nor any other created thing”**: This includes ALL things except for God Himself because everything else is created. Name what you will – there is absolutely no created thing that can separate us from the love of God.

Last I checked you too are a created thing! Even you cannot separate yourself from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

When we fail utterly, and are overwhelmed, then is the time to say: We have been accepted in Christ – only in Christ, wholly in Christ. Our place is unchanged by our failure. – ***William Newell***

In Christ – NOTHING created (including yourself) can ever separate you from God’s love! It’s what the Bible says!

**Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse** said, “A man walking along the deck of a ship might fall. His fall might hurt him, but it wouldn’t be the same as if he fell off the ship. A believer when he sins falls on the deck, but he’s never lost overboard. Christ has seen to it,” said Barnhouse, “that no wave – not death or life, or angels or principalities, or powers or things present or things to come, or height or depth shall ever sweep us off the deck. Fellowship is forever.



Like David, we might have to pray, 'Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,' but we would never have to pray, 'Restore the salvation,' because it's not lost, can't be lost." (Shared by John MacArthur)

Well, someone says, "What about God? Is He perhaps the great exception?" Well, Paul has already covered that in Romans 8:33 when He said, "***It is God who justifies***". God has already declared the elect "justified" and He is not going to go back on this declaration! That is a given! God cannot contradict Himself! If you are in Christ you are there forever and nothing can ever change that reality! You are SECURE – eternally SECURE!

### **Slide # 27**

- 1) Death
- 2) Life
- 3) Angels
- 4) Principalities
- 5) Powers
- 6) Things present
- 7) Things to come
- 8) Height
- 9) Depth
- 10) Any created thing

God is sovereign over all these things and He is FOR us (v. 31) and therefore none of these are "***able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***"

Note the STRONG emphasis on the love of God throughout this whole context.

### **Slide # 28**

The love of Christ – v. 35

Through Him who loved us – v. 37

The love of God – v. 39

The reason for our security is the LOVE of God which was demonstrated most clearly and ultimately in the cross of Christ (cf. Rom. 5:8).

If you question the love of God for you – look at the cross! I would remind us that there is nothing lovely about us. God did not love us based on our merit.

**Slide # 29**

**Romans 4:5 (NKJV)**

**5** But to him who does not work but believes on Him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

**Romans 5:8 (NKJV)**

**8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

God justifies the ungodly – Christ died for us while we were still sinners! This is the LOVE of God. It is a love based on GRACE! We don't deserve it. We could never earn it! It's all God's favor and we simply receive it by FAITH!

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16), but God's love expressed in giving His Son must be received (cf. Jn. 1:12). In saving faith, we become united to God and become the recipients of His love in a saving way.

Get this: Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. But you have to be "***in Christ***" to know the SECURITY of the love of God. Outside of Christ people are under the wrath of God.

In Christ they are in a forever LOVE relationship with Him. It all depends on our relationship with Christ.

Note that for believers who know this secure LOVE of God relationship, that for us, Jesus is our Lord.

Paul plainly indicates this here at the end of verse 39. Those who know the security of the love of God are those who know Christ Jesus as "***our Lord***."

Everywhere and always in the NT Paul always refers to Jesus as the Lord of all believers. There is no exception! Constantly in Romans he refers to Jesus as "our Lord".

To believe on Jesus as Savior is to believe on Him as Lord as only the LORD can be Savior! This is a package.

Romans 8 is my favorite chapter in the Bible and many would consider it to be the greatest chapter in the Bible.

It **begins** with there is “no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus” (8:1) and it **concludes** with nothing can “separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus” (8:39) and in the **middle** we find that according to God’s purpose all things are working together for good to those who love God (8:28).

The believer’s SECURITY is interwoven throughout the whole chapter and it is all based on God’s love as found in His Son.

**An analogy** is given of a mountain climber who was tied to his guide with a rope. Though the route was treacherous and the climber often slipped, he didn’t fall to his death because of the rope tied to his guide.

Christ is the believers GUIDE and He never slips and the rope that ties us securely to Him is His great love for us, as seen in the cross!

**Bill Gaither** has written many good gospel songs during his long and lustrous career as a song writer. One day Bill was asked what is the greatest song ever penned and He said it is the song “***The Love of God***”. Wow! Coming from Bill Gaither, that is quite a statement! And it is hard to argue with.

O love of God, how rich and pure!  
 How measureless and strong!  
 It shall forevermore endure—  
 The saints’ and angels’ song.

Let sing together!